

**DRAFT
NOTES
NCLIS CONFERENCE CALL
November 7, 1995
11:00 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.**

Members Present: Jeanne Hurley Simon, Martha B. Gould, C. E. "Abe" Abramson, Shirley Adamovich, Walter Anderson, Joan Challinor, Mary Furlong, Frank Lucchino, Kay Riddle, Bobby Roberts, Winston Tabb, Barbara Taylor, Joel Valdez, Robert Willard

[Carol DiPrete, Norman Kelson, and Gary Sudduth were unable to participate]

Staff Present: Peter R. Young, Mary Alice Hedge, John G. Lorenz, Jane Williams, Kim Miller, and Barbara Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

Notes from/about Commissioners and Staff

- Commissioners-Designee C. E. "Abe" Abramson, C.E. Abramson/Realtor of Missoula, MT, and Walter H. Anderson, Editor and Vice President, New York, NY, were welcomed on board.

Chairperson Simon asked Messrs. Abramson and Anderson to introduce themselves and to describe what they see as their role on the Commission, and what they hope to accomplish by serving on the Commission.

In response, Mr. Abramson introduced himself as a businessman and public library advocate. His role is to fulfill that advocacy. He is computer literate and plans to focus his attention on libraries. He said, "Here I almost am!"

Mr. Anderson replied that as a Commissioner he hopes to make the world a better place for young people. His own life experience proved to him that you can go to the library and read a book, becoming anybody you want to be and going anywhere you want to go. "Knowledge is power," he stated, "and I would like to help empower children I will never see, my children's children." Mr. Anderson stated that book preservation is also extremely important to him.

- Martha, Gould, Joel Valdez, Peter Young, and Mary Alice Hedge reported that they are all recovering well after recent surgeries. Commissioner Challinor's husband has a rare eye problem, which is being treated by top specialists.
- Winston Tabb was congratulated on his new title at the Library of Congress. As of Monday, November 13, Winston is Associate Librarian for Library Services.

In Remembrance of Dr. Bessie B. Moore

Commissioners and staff who knew Dr. Bessie Grace Boehm Moore of Little Rock, Arkansas, were saddened to learn of her passing on October 24, 1995. Dr. Moore served as NCLIS Vice Chairman from 1972 through 1988, when she was named Vice Chairman Emeritus. Commissioner Willard represented the Commission at the services and described the funeral services to the Commissioner Members.. NCLIS staff sent flowers in honor of Bessie's wonderful contributions to NCLIS. We will miss her.

1996 Appropriations

On September 30 President Clinton signed the continuing resolution passed by Congress earlier that week to fund the federal government until November 13. During these 44 days the House and Senate will try to work out differences over the 13 annual appropriations bills that fund federal agencies and operations. The continuing resolutions provides funding at reduced levels -- 5% less than the average of the House- and Senate-passed bills or no more than 10% from FY 1995. According to Peter Young, the "best guess" is that there will be another continuing resolution to fund agencies beyond the end of the calendar year.

Regarding NCLIS' appropriation for FY 1996, Chairperson Simon's understanding is that there will be a 'push' for the Senate Committee figure (\$829,000) vs. the House figure (\$450,000). Mr. Abramson urged that furloughing staff be avoided in developing priority plans. Everyone will be kept posted as events unfold.

Authorization of LSTA

NCLIS Members discussed support for S. 143, the Workforce Development Act, which incorporates the Institute of Museum and Library Services provisions from S. 856. The approval of this amendment by the full Senate means that, when the Senate and House go to conference on S. 143 and H.R. 1617, the CAREERS Act, both bills will have strong provision for library programs. S. 143 incorporates most elements of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which resulted from the work of the Task Force on LSCA Reauthorization.

A meeting to discuss the rationale for accepting the Senate version is scheduled for November 8 in the office of Rep. Randy (Duke) Cunningham, R-CA, with Carol Henderson, Executive Director, ALA Washington Office; Mamie Bittner, Public and Legal Affairs, Institute of Museum Services; Chairperson Simon, Peter Young, and Mary Alice Hedge.

Chairperson Simon noted that the Senate Bill calls for NCLIS to have a policy advisory role to a new Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Commissioner Lucchino Expresses Concern

Commissioner Lucchino expressed his concern over the Commission's inability to influence the broader community. Vice Chairman Gould agreed to the need for a more visible Commission. Chairman Simon said that the upcoming NCLIS 25th anniversary celebration at the Library of Congress is a perfect window of opportunity for NCLIS visibility, but that the Commission's statute calls for NCLIS to focus primary attention on providing advice to the President and Congress.

Information Policies Committee

The Information Policies Committee held a one-hour conference call on November 6 to discuss possible NCLIS 1996 projects in this area. Committee Members are Carol DiPrete, Shirley Adamovich, Bobby Roberts, and Robert Williard. Commissioner Adamovich was unable to participate in call.

There are long-range issues related to the electronic dissemination of federal information. Some of the issues are: (1) How should government information be delivered?; (2) How can we make the system more user-conscious?; (3) Where does the information come from (federal/state/local)?; (4) How much of that information could legitimately be delivered by the private sector in better ways? (5) How do people use information?; (6) What is the quality of that information?; and (7) What information do people really need and want?

The Committee is scheduling a planning session to be held during the next December 1995 Commission meeting to obtain direction from the Commission as a whole.

December Commission Meeting

The next NCLIS meeting will be held December 14-15 in Washington, DC. Current plans call for much of the meeting to be devoted to **planning sessions**.

An orientation session for new Members (Abramson; Anderson; Challinor; and Furlong) will be held on Wednesday, December 13, in the NCLIS office. Announcement about a third NCLIS appointment is expected very shortly from the White House. [Mr. Abramson noted that he would be unable to attend the orientation.]

25th Anniversary Celebration

Commissioner Taylor, Chair, 25th Anniversary Committee, announced that the Center for the Book will co-sponsor the Commission's reception at the Library of Congress on December 14. Commissioners have been asked for contributions for the event, as appropriated funds cannot be used. President Clinton has been asked to attend to pay tribute to Dr. Bessie Moore.

1996 NCLIS Meeting(s) Planning

Suggested meetings and locations are:

American Association of Publishers, Washington, DC. - March 13-15, 1996

American Association of Museums, Minneapolis, MN - May 4-8, 1996

ALA Legislative day in Washington DC - May 6-7, 1996

Special Libraries Association, Boston, MA - June 8-13, 1996

American Library Association Annual Conference, NY, NY -
July 4-9, 1996

Interactive Services Assn., San Diego, CA. - July 21-24, 1996

Information Industry Association, Washington, DC - October 6-9, 1996

In addition, Mr. Abramson suggested the possibility of holding a meeting at the Air Force Academy in Denver, CO.

The call ended at 12:10 p.m.

11/22/95